

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A cosmetically acceptable skincare composition in the form of a hydroalcoholic gel dispersion, the composition comprising:

at least one active ingredient suitable for skincare, which is salicylic acid or a salt thereof **present in an amount of about 0.1% to about 5% w/w of the composition**[[.]]; and

a gelling agent in the form of a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof **and another vinyl monomer, the gelling agent present in an amount of about 0.1% to about 5% w/w of the composition,**

wherein the amount of water in the composition is in excess of 50% w/w, and

wherein the hydroalcoholic gel dispersion has a pH in the range about 3 to about 6,

and

wherein the hydroalcoholic gel dispersion has a viscosity in the range of about 50 mPa·s to about 20,000 mPa·s to facilitate handling and dispensing of the composition but being capable of flowing freely and being readily spreadable when applied to the intended site of application, and

provided that if the composition contains xanthan gum, then it does not contain iron trichloride.

2. (cancelled) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid, or a salt thereof, is a copolymer of that monomer with another vinylic monomer.

3. (cancelled) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gelling agent is a copolymer of a salt of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid with another vinylic monomer.

4. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the salt is an ammonium salt.

5. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of:

ammonium acryloyl dimethyl taurate / vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer;

ammonium acryloyl dimethyl taurate / Beheneth-25 methacrylate copolymer; and
ammonium acryloyldimethyltaurate / vinyl formamide copolymer.

6. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the gelling agent is ammonium acryloyl dimethyl taurate / vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer.
7. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises less than 10% w/w of the gelling agent.
8. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the composition comprises less than 5% w/w of the gelling agent.
9. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises more than 0.1 % w/w of the gelling agent.
10. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the composition comprises more than 0.5% w/w of the gelling agent.
11. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises an amount of gelling agent in the range 0.1 to 5% w/w.
12. (withdrawn) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a thickening agent.
13. (withdrawn) A composition as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the composition comprises a thickening agent selected from cellulose or derivatives thereof.
14. (cancelled) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the amount of water in the composition is in excess of 40% w/w.

15. (cancelled) A composition as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the amount of water in the composition is in excess of 50% w/w.
16. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the amount of water in the composition is in excess of 75% w/w.
17. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the hydroalcoholic gel comprises a C₁₋₆ alcohol as cosolvent.
18. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the cosolvent is a C₂₋₄ alkanol.
19. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the cosolvent is ethanol.
20. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 17, which comprises in excess of 5% w/w of the cosolvent.
21. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 20, which comprises in excess of 10% w/w of the cosolvent.
22. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 21, which comprises in excess of 20% w/w of the cosolvent.
23. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 22, which comprises in excess of 30% w/w of the cosolvent.
24. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the amount of cosolvent present in the composition does not exceed 50% w/w.
25. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is salicylic acid.

26. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid in the composition is at least 0.1 % by weight.

27. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid in the composition is at least 0.5% by weight.

28. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid is less than 5% by weight.

29. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid is less than 3% by weight.

30. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, which comprises one or more further topically active ingredients useful in skincare.

31. (previously presented) The composition of Claim 30, wherein one or more further topically active ingredients are selected from the group consisting of:

antimicrobial or antibacterial compounds selected from the following: triclosan, neomycin, clindamycin, polymyxin, bacitracin, benzoyl peroxide, hydrogen peroxide, tetracyclines sulfa drugs, penicillins, cephalosporins, and quinolones;

antiviral compounds, selected from acyclovir, tamvir, and penciclovir;

antifungal compounds, selected from the following: farnesol, clotrimazole, ketoconazole, econazole, fluconazole, calcium or zinc undecylenate, undecylenic acid, butenafine hydrochloride, ciclopirox olamine, miconazole nitrate, nystatin, sulconazole, and terbinafine hydrochloride;

anti-inflammatory compounds, selected from the following: steroidal agents selected from hydrocortisone, fluocinolone acetonide, halcinonide, halobetasol propionate, clobetasol propionate, betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone valerate, and triamcinolone acetonide, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents selected from aspirin, ibuprofen, ketoprofen,

naproxen, aloe Vera gel, aloe Vera, licorice extract, pilewort, Canadian willow root, zinc, and allantoin; and metronidazole, are present in the composition.

32. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the composition also comprises an antibacterial agent.

33. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the antibacterial agent is a peroxide antibacterial agent.

34. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the peroxide antibacterial agent is hydrogen peroxide or the composition comprises a compound that, in use, is capable of generating hydrogen peroxide.

35. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is at least 1 % by weight.

36. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is less than 5% by weight.

37. (original) A composition as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is less than 2% by weight.

38. (previously presented) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the composition is in the form of a transparent gel or a cream gel.

39. (withdrawn) A composition as claimed in Claim 38 wherein the cream gel is in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion.

40. (withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a person's skin, which method comprises the application to the skin of a cosmetically acceptable skincare composition in the form of a

hydroalcoholic gel dispersion, the composition comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof and a gelling agent in the form of a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof, provided that if the composition contains xanthan gum, then it does not contain iron trichloride.

41. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 40, which method is a therapeutic method.

42. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 41 for the prophylactic or remedial treatment of acne.

43. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 40, which method is a cosmetic method.

44. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 40, wherein the copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid, or a salt thereof, is a copolymer of that monomer with another vinylic monomer.

45. (cancelled)

46. (withdrawn) An article comprising a fibrous substrate impregnated with a cosmetically acceptable skincare composition in the form of a hydroalcoholic gel dispersion, the composition comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof and a gelling agent in the form of a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof provided that if the composition contains xanthan gum, then it does not contain iron trichloride.

47. (withdrawn) An article as claimed in claim 46, wherein the fibrous substrate is impregnated with the skincare composition in an amount in the range from 10 to 30% by weight, preferably from 15 to 25% by weight and most preferably from 18 to 22% by weight of the fibrous substrate.

48. (withdrawn) An article as claimed in Claim 46 wherein the substrate comprises cellulose or cotton fibres or a mixture thereof.

49. (previously presented) The composition of claim 31, wherein said tetracyclines are selected from the group consisting of doxycycline and minocycline.

50. (previously presented) The composition of claim 31, wherein said sulfa drug is sulfacetamide.

51. (previously presented) The composition of claim 31, wherein said cephalosporin is cephalexin.

52. (previously presented) The composition of claim 31, wherein said quinolones are selected from the group consisting of lomefloxacin, ofloxacin, and trovafloxacin.

53. (previously presented) The cosmetically acceptable skincare composition of claim 1, wherein said composition has the property that, when rubbed over skin, its initial viscosity is reduced at least 2-fold to yield a viscosity of less than 100 mPa·s.

54. (previously presented) The cosmetically acceptable skincare composition of claim 1, wherein said composition has the property that, when rubbed over skin, its initial viscosity is reduced at least 2-fold to yield a viscosity of less than 10 mPa·s.